

Our Ref: 006598/12



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

11 December 2012

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 14 November 2012.

I require the following, sorted by fiscal year from 2000 onwards:

- 1. The total number of complaints made regarding child physical and sexual abuse;***
- 2. The total number of complaints made regarding child physical and sexual abuse against persons in positions of trust (by the legal definition of "position of trust" being any person who has responsibility for the wellbeing of children either by nature of their job or by virtue of their being in a position to make policy regarding same);***
- 3. The total number of complaints which led to persons named in those complaints being charged for offences against children;***
- 4. The total number of those charged being subsequently convicted and the range of sentencing;***
- 5. The reasons for those named in complaints not being charged.***

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Allegations concerning child abuse of both a physical and sexual nature are recorded on Nottinghamshire Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit's Case and Tasking Administration System (CATS). Charging decisions are not always recorded on CATS as a matter of course. Complaints which lead to a criminal charge are recorded on the Force Crime Recording Management System (CRMS). Therefore to establish how many complaints of child abuse recorded which subsequently led to an individual being charged, would entail a manual search of each CATS record in order to ascertain enough detail to be able to cross reference the charging decision against the Crime Recording Management System. In order to ascertain whether an individual who was charged in relation to these allegations, was then subsequently convicted at court, would entail a further manual search of each suspect individual's record on the Police National Computer (PNC).

An initial search revealed a total of 1,495 child abuse complaints recorded on CATS for the year 2004-2005 alone.

It is estimated that to search each CATS records manually for the correct information to then be able to perform a search of the Crime Recording Management System, would take around 15 minutes for one record. This would equate to approximately 373.75 working hours (15 days, 13 hours and 45 mins) to search the records relating to 2004/2005 alone. This takes the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and engages Section 12 (1) of the Act.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Due to the numbers of allegations involved in your request I am unable to suggest a refinement to your request which would bring it within the retrievable cost threshold boundaries.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, once one aspect of your request falls outside of the cost threshold, we are not obliged to answer any part of your request. However, in the spirit of the Act but outside of the Act

itself, I am able to provide you with figures which would provide you with information in respect of parts 1 and 2 of your initial request.

I must advise you that in line with Nottinghamshire Police's Retention and Disposal schedule, incident information is usually only retained on computer systems for a period of 7 years before it is automatically weeded. Therefore, we have only been able to locate information which goes back to 2004/2005.

Please find below the total numbers of child abuse allegations currently recorded on CATS per year from 2005-2012.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Total number of allegations recorded on CATS	1495	1604	1477	1244	1307	1544	1654	1716

Please find below, the total number of child abuse allegations per year currently recorded on CATS, where the offender/victim relationship is recorded as 'position of trust'.

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Total number of allegations where the offender/victim relationship is recorded as 'position of trust'	88	104	112	82	77	129	130	108

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115

9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

If so, prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision reconsidered is to telephone the case officer that is identified at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Formal Independent Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Nottinghamshire Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you can request an Independent Review.

Upon receipt for a review of the initial request response, an independent audit officer from Information Management will review the request and assess whether it has been satisfactorily processed in accordance with policy and procedure.

Requests for Independent Reviews requests should be made in writing to-

Force Information Manager
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

The Audit officer will record and communicate his/her decision to the information requester within 20 working days.

Appeals

If the findings of the formal independent review do not meet your approval, you can register an appeal against the decision.

An investigation will then take place by the Freedom of Information officer, which will be reported and presented to the Internal Appeal Board. This will include a full account of the reasoning for or against disclosure and the application of any relevant exemptions.

The Internal Appeal Board will consist of at least a member of the Chief Officer Team, a member of the Legal Team and the Force Information Manager.

Appeals should be registered in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

Alternatively E-mail: Freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Or call: 01159672507

Applications to the Information Commissioner

If you then remain dissatisfied, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

Alternatively, Write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Or call: 01625 545700.